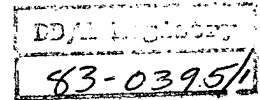


SECRET

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505



07 FEB 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Policy and Planning Staff,
Intelligence Community Staff

SUBJECT: Supercomputers

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, dtd 26 January 1983, Same
Subject, DCI/ICS 83-4224

1. In the Reference, you asked CIA to respond to a set of questions on supercomputers. Brief answers to these questions are provided in the attachment.

2. From a CIA perspective, there are two main points we would like to make concerning supercomputers. First, we are currently uncertain as to whether we have definite requirements for a supercomputer capability. In fact, we are investigating this very issue at this time. We, therefore, have not made a decision to acquire a supercomputer. We believe that this would be a costly and complex exercise and are not prepared to proceed until we are convinced that the benefits outweigh the costs.

3. Second, we are quite concerned about being limited to foreign sources (presumably Japanese) should we decide to acquire a supercomputer. Agency policy generally prohibits the use of foreign ADP resources. This policy is derived from security concerns only. That is, in our judgment, the use of foreign ADP resources greatly increases our vulnerability to manipulation by a hostile intelligence service. Therefore, we believe domestic sources for supercomputers should be fostered. How to do this, however, is a complex policy question for which we have no simple answer at this time.

4. My action officer on supercomputers is [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Director of Data Processing. Please feel free to 25X1
contact [redacted] directly, if you have any questions or 25X1
comments on this response. [redacted] may be reached on 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Executive Director

Attachment: a/s

SECRET [redacted]

U/FOUO when Separated from Attachment

